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POPE TO SEND SPECIAL ENVOY TO AID IN BEAGLE NEGOTIATIONS

Details on Vatican's Peace Efforts

PY221358Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1245 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text of communique issued by Presidential Public Information Secretariat in Buenos Aires on 22 December]

[Text] The national government informs the public that yesterday the secretary of public affairs of the [Roman Catholic] Church, Msgr Agostino Casaroli, invited the Argentine ambassador to the Holy See to visit him at the apostolic palace.

Monsignor Casaroli told the Argentine representative that His Holiness John Paul II is concerned about the tense situation between Argentina and Chile and that the holy father wishes to find a swift and peaceful solution for the conflict.

As proof of his concern and personal good will, his holiness decided to offer to send immediately a high-ranking representative. The mission of the pope's envoy will be public and urgent in view of the critical situation prevailing between the two countries. The pope's envoy will contact the governments of Argentina and Chile to help them channel their negotiations toward the search for a peaceful solution.

Monsignor Casaroli issued a similar offer to the Chilean ambassador to the Holy See.

The pope's offer has been accepted with satisfaction and gratitude by the Argentine Government because the desire of his holiness the pope is in line with Argentina's permanent desire to solve the pending matter, fully expressed in the message which the president of the nation sent to the holy father on 16 December.

It was also reported that Monsignor Casaroli had conveyed a similar offer to the Chilean ambassador to the Holy See, although the Chilean Government reportedly had not yet answered the offer when Argentina conveyed its acceptance to the Vatican at 2010, Vatican time.

By accepting this offer, the Argentine Government trusts that the wisdom of the holy father will allow the finding of a final solution which would preserve the essential rights of the two peoples and preserve peace at the same time.

Pope Will Not Mediate

PY221844Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1751 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpts] Vatican City, 22 Dec (AFP)--Manuel Ruben Blanco, Argentine ambassador to the Vatican, denied here today that Pope John Paul II will serve as mediator between his country and Chile. Blanco explained to AFP that it is a matter of a mission of good offices and a simple papal exploratory mission.

When the pope spoke to the cardinals, he stressed that mediation by the Holy See had been planned, but that it could not be realized despite the agreement in principle between Argentina and Chile because of specific difficulties. In Buenos Aires and Santiago the representatives of the Holy See will try to obtain more direct and specific information and to seek a solution together with the interested parties, the head of the church said.

Argentine sources have asserted that the good will representative could be a nuncio on special mission. The difference between a mediation, which does not have any of the obligatory character of an arbitration, and an offer of good offices is, however, subtle and perhaps reflects Argentina's desire not to find itself again submitted to an adverse verdict.

Argentina and Chile agreed upon a joint mediation by Queen Elizabeth II and the International Court of The Hague, but their verdict was rejected by Argentina. On the ecclestiastical level it is a very delicate matter for the pope to intervene too directly after the rejection of a decision which was sponsored by the head of the Anglican Church.

Unlike the rest of the world, the Holy See has looked very seriously upon the conflict because of the troop concentrations and the rumors of mobilization. In the past, John Paul I made an appeal for appeasement in a message sent to the episcopates of the two countries. Now John Paul II, his successor, stresses that news reports are becoming ever more alarming and cause one to fear the worst--a war.

Cardinal Samore Appointed Special Envoy

PY231449Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1413 GMT 23 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (TELAM)--A Foreign Ministry spokesman has reported that Cardinal Antonio Samore, special envoy from His Holiness Pope John Paul II, appointed to open negotiations regarding the border dispute between Argentina and Chile, will arrive in this country next Tuesday.

He added that his arrival will take place in the morning hours and that he will be accompanied during his mission by Msgr Fiorello Cavalli and Msgr Faustino Sainz.

Statement by Papal Envoy

PY251827Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1610 GMT 25 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Vatican City, 25 Dec (TELAM-ANSA)--Hours before his departure for Buenos Aires, Cardinal Antonio Samore said in a statement to Vatican Radio that the pope's mission to the Chilean and Argentine governments is aimed at obtaining direct and specific information regarding the conflict between the two Latin American nations. Samore added that he plans to contact the two parties immediately. The cardinal plans to meet tomorrow with Argentine Government representatives and later with Chilean authorities.

Cardinal Samore stated that his mission begins with the best message of good will since it starts on Christmas Day. Invoking Christ so that this papal mission may be successful, Cardinal Samore said that the search for and the achievement of peace is always a difficult task and man's toils are worthless if God does not bless their efforts.

Pope John Paul's special envoy added that it is difficult to foresee the length of the trip. He said: After contacting representatives of the two countries, we may be able to agree on the procedures to be followed in the bilateral and trilateral meetings, the venue and the time they will take place. He added: The important thing now is to be successful in this mediation. This is no time to spare efforts.

Cardinal Samore ended his statement on an optimistic note. He said: There is reason to have hope since the two nations are anxiously awaiting this mission and their authorities have suspended any action which could have developed into a serious conflict.

In his statement to Vatican Radio, Cardinal Samore said the pope is highly interested in this mission and his attitude is absolutely impartial. Cardinal Samore explained that he is going to Buenos Aires first for purely technical reasons because of flight connections between Rome and South America.

Cardinal Antonio Samore and the delegation appointed by Pope John Paul II as his personal representatives to look into the Argentine-Chilean conflict will depart for Buenos Aires at 0000 GMT aboard an Aerolineas Argentinas flight. The papal mission, which will arrive in Buenos Aires at 1325 GMT on Tuesday, is composed of Cardinal Samore, Father Fiorello Cavalli of the Jesuit Order and Father Faustino Munoz Sainz of the secular clergy.

Samore Terms Visit 'Informational'

PY260047Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2233 GMT 25 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Rome, 25 Dec (TELAM-ANSA-DPA)--Cardinal Antonio Samore, who was entrusted by Pope John Paul II with a special good will mission before the governments of Argentina and Chile to settle their dispute over the Beagle Channel, departed for Buenos Aires at 2005 GMT.

Before boarding the plane, the high prelate told newsmen that his holiness had announced the appointment of a special representative to obtain firsthand specific information on the position of the two countries involved in the Beagle conflict. He added: We must study and search together for possible honorable solutions to the dispute between Argentina and Chile.

The cardinal added: This is the main objective of the mission his holiness has entrusted to me, that is, an informational mission, primarily a mission to study and jointly search for an honorable, peaceful compromise.

Monsignor Samore was greeted at Rome's Fiumicino airport by the Argentine and Chilean ambassadors to the Holy See, Ruben Blanco and Hector Riesle Contreras, respectively; and by Msgr Agostino Casaroli, public affairs secretary of the Vatican. Monsignor Samore concluded by stating that he did not know how long his mission would take and that after contacting the representatives of the Argentine and Chilean governments, separately, a decision would be made as to holding bilateral or trilateral talks.

PRESIDENT VIDELA CALLS ON NATION TO WORK FOR PEACE

PY251643Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0003 GMT 25 Dec 78 PY

[Christmas message delivered in Buenos Aires on 24 December 1978 by Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla from the Olivos presidential residence--presumably recorded]

[Excerpts] Argentina is perhaps today experiencing the most important moments of its history. The country, which was prostrated yesterday and is on its feet today thanks to the efforts of all its children, is willing to march on toward its destiny of grandeur. Nevertheless, this objective is currently threatened by the possibility of a break in peace, that peace which we all desire.

We have said that peace must not be a simple truce taken with a passive attitude, but the product of a dynamic everyday effort. It is not enough, therefore, to ask for peace, it is not enough to desire peace and even less to negotiate peace. Peace must be earned and this is our present commitment--to earn peace, but a peace that deserves to be lived in and built with the constant and solidary efforts of all Argentines.

If we act in this manner, we would have understood and we would have listened to the desire expressed by His Holiness John Paul II in his Christmas message when he said: If you want peace, educate yourself in peace. This desire comes from the moral authority of a man whose life is living testimony of an apostolic vocation permanently involved in the struggle against all the rigors of life and who today is crying out for peace.

Argentina should thank with filial love the pope's personal mission which will help us find the roads that will lead to a just and equitable solution to the southern border dispute, but a solution built under the sign of peace.

Fellow Argentines: To all those persons of good will, Argentines and foreigners alike, who with their daily efforts work to build peace because they wish to live in peace, and particularly to my comrades in arms who are today bearing the fatherland's arms with sacrifice and devotion in order to preserve peace because they also wish to live in peace, to all of them, to those who are near us, or to those who are far away but still united through the miracle we celebrate today, I wish to express to all of you from the bottom of my heart my best wishes for a Christmas to be celebrated in peace--in peace with ourselves, with our fellow brothers and with Our Lord God. Amen.

ARMY COMMANDER VIOLA CITES THREAT OF CHILEAN EXPANSION

PY231637Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1515 GMT 23 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, 23 Dec--In an interview granted to the Brazilian weekly ISTO E, Argentine Army Commander in Chief Roberto Viola stated that "Argentina supports the need to establish a definitive barricade against any new Chilean attempt at expanding toward the Atlantic."

The commander in chief of the army and a member of the Argentine military government junta made this statement in an exclusive interview granted to this influential Brazilian weekly and published in its latest issue.

When asked about the type of conciliatory proposal which must be made to resume negotiations between the two countries, the general said that it must be a proposal which would reconcile the interests of the two countries.

He said: "In our official communiques we have expressed the permanent desire of the Argentine Government to maintain dialog. Therefore, it is now up to Chile to submit a proposal which would allow the continuation of this dialog."

At another point in his brief interview, the commander in chief of the Argentine Army indicated that his government is not prepared to alter its view that Argentina is an Atlantic country and Chile is a Pacific country "because this is a traditional principle of our history based on the agreements signed with Chile in 1881."

General Viola concluded his interview with ISTO E saying: "We want a demarcation line which would indicate clearly that this is as far as Chile can go."

VIOLA SAYS 'EVERYTHING DEPENDS' ON PAPAL ENVOY

PY252013Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1832 GMT 25 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Dec (NA)--Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Roberto Viola discussed the Beagle issue today stating that "everything depends on the results which the pope's envoy obtains; if he is successful--and Argentina will do its best to help him--there is no doubt that tensions will be significantly relieved."

Viola made these remarks in a radio interview which took place during his trip from the military unit stationed in Junin de los Andes in Neuquen Province, where he spent Christmas Eve with the troops. The dialog with the journalists dealt with the army commander in chief's opinion of the mission of the pope's envoy, Cardinal Antonio Samore, who is expected tomorrow morning.

Viola added that "if the pope's envoy is not successful we will be back where we were, in the midst of a tension which benefits neither of the two nations."

With regard to John Paul II's decision to send a mediator for the border conflict between Argentina and Chile, General Viola stated: "I believe that his holiness' decision is very positive. I believe that it is in line with the permanent will of the church to seek peace between the nations, especially so in this case since the nations involved are Catholic."

Viola reaffirmed that "I believe that the envoy will be facing a difficult task in trying to reconcile the positions of the two countries, but the attitude of the holy father can only be regarded as positive and comforting."

Further on, and referring specifically to Cardinal Samore's mission, Viola said: "Cardinal Samore's mission is basically the result of the pope's decision to actively participate in the matter, seeking agreements between the two countries so as to reach a truly just and honorable arrangement."

The commander in chief of the army indicated that "the mission is imbued, as his holiness has stated, with the principles of justice and equity, principles which Argentina warmly supports."

He reasserted that the task of the pope's envoy "might be difficult" and multifaceted and "Argentina has clearly told Chile what its position is, what it wants, and how to seek a solution for this conflict, through an arrangement which would be acceptable and honorable for both parties."

With regard to the development of the border conflict at the end of the mission of the pope's envoy, Viola said: "Everything depends on the result obtained by the pope's envoy; if he is successful--and Argentina will do its best to help him--there is no doubt that tensions will be significantly relieved."

He added: "However, if the pope's envoy is not successful, we will be back where we were, in the midst of a tension which benefits neither of the two nations."

The commander in chief of the army concluded by stating that "the entire nation can rest assured that the national government is facing this difficult problem with a deep awareness of its responsibilities and duties, constantly bearing in mind the demands of the nation's interests and honor.

GENERAL VILLEGAS ADVOCATES SEIZING DISPUTED ISLANDS

PY221648Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1217 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Argentine Gen Osiris Villegas (ret) has proposed the occupation of the islands which Argentina is disputing with Chile, recalling that under the terms of international law Argentina would not appear as the aggressor. Villegas, who was one of the first negotiators in the conflict for the Argentine military government during 1978, said that "no one could accuse us of being aggressors, in the first place, because in international law when a disputed territory is occupied it is not aggression and, in the second place, because we would be doing what Chile did a year ago.

GENERAL AGOSTI ISSUES CHRISTMAS MESSAGE IN SOUTH

PY260148Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2050 GMT 25 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpts] Rio Gallegos, 25 Dec (TELAM)--Lt Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti, commander in chief of the air force, spent Christmas Eve night with air force personnel stationed in this region, to whom he conveyed this message: "We love peace but with dignity; we are noble, but we do not want to hear about plunderings."

"On this Christmas and New Year's vigil, the Argentine family will be strongly united and dedicated to the unrenounceable principles of the national identity. However, in view of exceptional circumstances, we are celebrating this event with our traditional noble spirit, calm reflection and steadfast determination, but with a rapid pulse.

"We have given sound evidence of our desire for conciliation but we also want to give sound evidence of our steadfast decision to not fail the nation. . . .

"Our pulse remains rapid because we are fully aware of the responsibilities of the hour. . . ."

General Agosti and the members of his staff returned to the federal capital early this morning.

MILITARY COMMANDERS RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES

PY251715Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1631 GMT 25 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Dec (TELAM)--The three armed forces commanders have returned to Buenos Aires after spending Christmas Eve with their respective troops stationed at various garrisons located in the country's southern region. Amy Commander Roberto E. Viola spent Christmas Eve with troops stationed in Juin de los Andes, located in the Andes in Neuquen Province. Navy Commander Lambruschini visited troops stationed in Ushuaia, capital of Tierra del Fuego. Air Force Commander Orlando Ramon Agosti spent Christmas Eve in Rio Grande, also in Tierra del Fuego.

TROOPS MOVE TO UNDISCLOSED LOCATIONS IN SOUTH

PA242007Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1950 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Dec (AFP)--It was learned here today that military units from San Juan Province and Bahia Balanca city have left for undisclosed locations in southern Argentina, where this country and Chile have had a century-old border conflict.

Before Regiment 22 of the mountain infantry left San Juan, located 1,280 KM west of Buenos Aires, military garrison chief Col Homar Sagrista urged local residents to behave "in accordance with the events we have been called to experience, as heirs to a victorious army that has never lost any of the confrontations it has had throughout its campaigns."

Troop Movements Continue

PA242034Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1951 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Dec (AFP)--It was learned here today that military troops from San Juan Province and the city of Bahia Blanca have left for undetermined sites in southern Argentina, where this country and Chile have a continuing dispute over the Channel.

Troops of the "Coronel Ramon Estomba" armored sharpshooter cavalry regiment left Bahia Blanca, 687 km south of here, in a parade followed by the residents of that Alantic port city. It was learned here that the movement of soldiers and war materiel toward the south of the country has continued without interruption, despite the climate of detente noted in government and military sectors because of the decision of Pope John Paul II to sent Cardinal Antonio Samore "on a good will mission" to try to resolve the Beagle Channel dispute.

MILITARY ORDERS CLOSURE OF LAS CUEVAS BORDER TUNNEL

PY222242Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2210 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Mendoza, 22 Dec (NA)--Military sources reported here this afternoon that the closure of the Las Cuevas international tunnel to Chile was ordered by Argentine military officials for "security reasons" to carry out army military exercises. The sources did not specify when the tunnel, which was closed at 0930 this morning, will be reopened. This measure has also allowed workers of the Belgarano railroad to carry out repairs on the Argentine side of the tunnel.

The border tunnel was reopened last Tuesday after being closed a week due to slides on the Chilean side and military exercises by troops of a garrison in this province. This new closure of the border prevents any traffic by motor vehicle or train.

Reopening of Tunnel

PY230227Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0155 GMT 23 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Mendoza, 22 Dec (NA)--The command of the 8th Mountain Infantry Brigade has reported that the Las Cuevas international tunnel will be reopened to traffic at 0800 tomorrow as a result of the suspension of military maneuvers in the nearby area and in "keeping with the spiritual meaning of the coming celebrations." The unit, which is under III Corps command, released an army communique at 2115 tonight stating that in "keeping with the spiritual meaning of the coming celebrations, it has been decided to temporarily suspend the exercises being carried out on National Road 7 and adjacent roads in order to allow the transit of persons to and from Chile." The communique adds: "Therefore, as of 23 December 1978, all restrictions on the use of National Road 7 and the international tunnel for motor vehicles and trains are lifted." Therefore, the tunnel will be open to normal vehicle and rail traffic tomorrow.

FEDERAL POLICE ARREST CHILEAN NATIONALS IN NEUQUEN

PY221646Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 22 Dec (AFP)--The Foreign Ministry reported here today that a number of Chilean citizens have been detained by the Argentine federal police in Neuquen Province, 1,200 km southeast of Buenos Aires. Among those arrested is former Chilean Senator Raul Morales Adriazola, who planned to travel to Santiago today, according to a report sent from Buenos Aires by Chilean Ambassador Sergio Onofre Jarpa. The report published here by the Foreign Ministry did not give the exact number of detained persons, but it added that they were arrested by the Neuquen police when they were going to the consulate of their country.

It has been said in local journalist circles that this episode may add a new factor of tension to the Chilean-Argentine dispute over sovereignty in the Beagle Channel zone in the south.

PADILLA CALLS FOR PEACE, UNDERSTANDING AMONG BOLIVIANS

PA242329Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[Text] La Paz, 24 Dec (EFE)--Bolivian President Gen David Padilla today called on the nations of the southern cone to overcome their differences through dialog while exhorting all Bolivians to promote unity and mutual understanding to clear the way for the return to constitutional normalcy. He made these appeals in a Christmas message to the Bolivian people.

Mentioning no names, Padilla's words were clearly directed at the Argentine-Chilean conflict over three islands in the Beagle Channel and the Bolivian elections scheduled for July 1979. "We are living an era full of all sorts of torments," the president said, and added: "No nation can become an island and remain aloof from the important events that could change the fate of humanity."

In a clear reference to the Beagle Channel conflict, Padilla pointed out that "some think that only force can solve international controversies," thus forgetting the norms of international peaceful coexistence. He appealed to the nations of the southern cone to solve their border differences through direct dialog. President Padilla warned that failure to resort to peaceful negotiation "leads only to the expansion of the conflict's sphere of action." He then said that "Bolivia wants peace based on justice and full recognition of its rights. It seeks the solution of its problems through dialog," he added, "and recommends the same formula to other nations."

Referring to internal affairs, President Padilla exhorted all Bolivians to seek "peace and understanding" to create the proper climate for the general elections of 1 July 1979. "Just as peace among nations is necessary, so is internal peace indispensable," said the chief of state in his Christmas message.

He also evoked Christian reflection on the need for reconciliation among all men. "We sincerely wish this Christmas were truly a celebration of peace and conciliation," he said in his message, and invited all to forget resentment and frustration for the good of the country. Thus, "life will become less difficult and the shadows of the night less dark and threatening."

The final words of his message were to greet the people and wish for peace. "Let this Christmas be a true festival of peace and mutual affection. Let it erase from our spirit all sterile differences and controversies. Let us think about what can be done for the fatherland, and let us not demand of it those things that can be achieved through our own efforts." He concluded his message by invoking the "blessings of divine providence" in these trying hours for the Bolivian people and wishing for "an unforgettable Christmas and an excellent new year full of happiness and prosperity" for all Bolivians.

PADILLA, FOUR OTHER BRIGADIER GENERALS TO BE PROMOTED

PY221447Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Five brigadier generals will be promoted to major generals, according to the terms of the general armed forces promotion order, which will be published within the next few hours. The president of the military government junta is among them. The generals to be promoted are: David Padilla, Ramon Azero Zanzetenea, Antonio Rojas Montalvo, Victor Castillo Suarez and Julio Herrera.

Among those to be promoted is Navy Capt Rene Torrez (Saavedra), who will be promoted to rear admiral of the Bolivian naval force.

Sources at the Defense Ministry said that the president of the military government junta, Brig Gen David Padilla Arancibia, in his capacity as captain general of the armed forces will be commander in chief. It has also been announced that next Wednesday, at a special ceremony to be held at Miraflores general headquarters, Gen Victor Castillo Suarez will take over as chief of staff of the armed forces command.

It was learned that the order of postings includes the names of Jorge Terrazas Alborta, commander of the 7th Division, (who will take over) the 4th Division, and Luis Garcia Meza, who will take charge of the army military school.

No report could be obtained regarding postings for Generals Juan Pereda Asbun and Antonio Vasquez Sempertegui [name as heard], who are both members of the Bolivian Air Force.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC EXPECTED SOON

PY222022Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1905 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 22 Dec (LATIN)--Authorized Foreign Ministry sources have told LATIN that Bolivia will establish diplomatic relations with Mainland China within 2 weeks. It has been reported that the government will make this decision pursuant to a study that is being conducted in high-level government circles on the advantages which may result from establishing relations with the PRC.

A high-ranking spokesman questioned today by LATIN at the Foreign Ministry said that thus far everything leads to the belief that these relations will be favorable to Bolivia. The spokesman, who asked not to be identified, stated that the present military government will adopt this measure based on two fundamental viewpoints.

He said: Bolivia cannot overlook the importance of a country with 900 million people and its influence on world politics. He added, however, that the decision will be prompted primarily by the fact that both Bolivia and China are producers of minerals, especially tin, and therefore they should coordinate a policy of mutual cooperation to jointly defend their raw materials.

The spokesman added that the two governments have a good disposition toward establishing diplomatic relations, which would tacitly imply that Bolivia will have to break relations with the Taiwan regime. The spokesman reported that the steps toward establishing relations with China began under former Minister Ricardo Anaya, who ended his functions on 24 November when the government of Gen Juan Pereda Asbun was overthrown. Therefore, the recent announcement made by the United States that it will soon establish relations with China did not influence and will in no way influence the Bolivian decision, the spokesman said.

Col Jorge Echazu, mines and metallurgy minister, conveyed to LATIN today his support for establishing formal diplomatic relations with China. Echazu said: As a democratic country, Bolivia can establish diplomatic relations with every country in the world. He said that as a citizen, he advocates rapprochement with China. He added: Since both China and Bolivia are producers of minerals, they naturally share common interests.

The Bolivian military government, which seeks to give a greater impulse to the declining mining sector, called general elections for 1 July 1979 and will turn the government over to a democratic regime on 6 August 1979.

PINOCHET CANCELS VISIT TO SOUTH, AWAITS VATICAN ENVOY

PY222049Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2025 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 22 Dec (AFP)--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet today canceled his trip to the southern part of the country due to the imminent arrival in Santiago of an envoy from the Vatican. Pinochet had planned to travel to Punta Arenas next Monday, but according to an official communique released today the trip has been postponed due to the decision of the Vatican to send an envoy to Santiago and Buenos Aires to study the border conflict between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Channel. Official information released here by the Presidential Press Secretariat did not specify when President Pinochet will visit the southern part of Chilean territory.

NAVY COMMANDER SAYS ENTIRE FLEET POISED IN SOUTH

PY221816Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, Chilean Navy commander and government junta member, stated today that the entire Chilean fleet is in the southern region prepared to defend Chilean sovereignty. Admiral Merino made this statement in a Christmas message to the Chilean Navy issued through journalists. The navy commander met this morning with journalists covering government house information to commemorate Christmas. Admiral Merino stated that on 24 December, humanity received the most important gift it has ever possessed: to be able to overcome original sin and be accepted as sons of God.

FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTS MEETING OF TIAR PANEL

PY221211Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Chile, Invoking the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, TIAR, has requested an urgent meeting of the inter-American consulting group to enforce all necessary measures to preserve peace and security in Latin America.

Maria Eugenia Ayarzun, Chilean ambassador to the OAS, delivered Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos' note to OAS council President Fabin Alexix Rehead, representative from Grenada. The foreign minister's letter states that Chile is quite concerned because the present situation may develop into an armed conflict. He notes the many military measures adopted by the Argentine Government to increase pressure throughout its border with Chile. He adds that numerous governments, conscious that peace in the continent is threatened, have issued declarations in this regard.

Cubillos invokes Article No 28 of the OAS Charter and Article No 6 of the TIAR to request an urgent consultative meeting provided for in the inter-American treaty. Article No 6 of the TIAR states that if the integrity of a nation or the sovereignty or political independence of a nation is violated, or if any Latin American nation is threatened by an aggression other than war; if it is threatened by extracontinental or intercontinental conflict, or by any other deed or situation endangering peace in the American continent, the TIAR consulting body will meet to discuss those measures to be enforced in case of aggression and those measures for common defense which must be taken to help that nation and to maintain peace and security in the Americas.

The OAS council will meet this afternoon. The consulting body is made up of TIAR member countries.

SANTIAGO RADIO REPORTS REOPENING OF LAS CUEVAS TUNNEL

PY231724Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Dec 78 PY

[Text] The Caracoles international tunnel [at Las Cuevas] is open again. Traffic between Chile and Argentina was resumed at 1050 this morning. This tunnel was closed yesterday by Argentine authorities without any explanation to Chilean authorities. This information was released by carabineros headquarters in Santiago.

AMBASSADOR DIEZ COUNTERS ARGENTINE POSITION AT UN

PY231423Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Chile has accused Argentina of presenting an incomplete and distorted version of the facts. The protest which concerns the border dispute in the southern area of the continent was presented by Ambassador Sergio Diez to the president of the United Nations Security Council, the West German Rudigar Von Wechmar. In his note, Ambassador Diez refuted the exposition presented on Friday 15 December by the Argentine ambassador concerning the tense situation between Chile and Argentina.

The Chilean ambassador said: Even though this tension exists, my government believes that the way in which it is presented and the accusations made by the Argentine note constitute an incomplete and distorted version of the real situation. He then added that the Chilean note is designed to provide the missing facts and correct the more obvious mistakes contained in the Argentine note. Diez answered the accusations made by Argentina one by one. The Chilean ambassador said that the Argentine note omitted two fundamental events which have generated the present situation: first, Argentina's territorial pretensions which are clearly against the treaty of Chilean-Argentine boundaries of 23 July 1881; second, Argentina's annulment of the arbitral decision handed down by the British Government concerning the Beagle Channel conflict of 18 April 1977.

The Chilean ambassador then mentioned the decision of the arbitral court recognizing Chilean sovereignty over Picton, Nueva and Lennox Islands in the Beagle Channel. He said: It is indisputable that this decision has definitively solved the age-old Beagle controversy since, in accordance with international law, the decision of the arbitral court is mandatory for both parties. The Chilean ambassador reminded the president of the Security Council that observance of the decision concerns the honor of interested nations. Diez then pointed out that Chile has completely abided by the decision, while the Argentine Government unexpectedly opted for declaring the decision absolutely null.

After some other remarks, Ambassador Diez said that as a result of this, it is evident that it is not the Chilean Government which should be held responsible for the tension existing in the area; it has done nothing more than respect the arbitral decision.

He then indicated that Argentina's pretensions over the islands south of the Beagle Channel are absolutely unjustified because those islands have always been, and are, under uninterrupted and effective Chilean sovereignty.

In effect, Diez stated, Chile is obeying the existing treaties, observing the decision of the British monarchy, and limiting itself to safeguarding its rights.

In the final part of his exposition, the Chilean ambassador reiterated the Santiago government's ever-present willingness to find a legal solution to the controversy.

The facts he presented made it very obvious that the Chilean Government is not responsible for the tension in the southern region. Nor is Chile the one which has ignored international law. Nor has the Chilean Government undertaken a plan of military threats which have hindered bilateral negotiations which were designed to solve the dispute. He concluded by saying that, on the contrary, the existing threat seems to be designed to force, Chile to yield to unacceptable territorial pretensions.

PRESS REACTION ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN BEAGLE CONFLICT

PY221520Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1254 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 22 Dec (AFP)--The Chilean press today reported under banner headlines the critical diplomatic conflict prevailing between Argentina and Chile as a result of the burning Beagle Channel border issue. The impending Christmas festivities had until yesterday prevailed over most of the developments concerning the conflict, which today drew the attention of the Chileans once again.

The daily EL MERCURIO published banner headlines stating that Chile has invoked the Reciprocal Assistance Treaty and an article stating that Argentina has rejected another Chilean effort to immediately overcome the severe tensions stemming from the southern conflict. The morning daily emphasized that in view of the current circumstances, the immediate intervention of the holy father seems to be the only course capable of restoring the minimum of normality required for a solution. It went on to state: "It is difficult to ask Chile to continue diplomatic negotiations with a country which has set on the warpath all its military units at strategic points along our mutual borders."

In turn, the popular daily LA TERCERA DE LA HORA (independent) headlined that the pope will send a peace mission to Chile and Argentina, and published an editorial that Argentina's position is again negative and that Chilean public opinion can no longer have any doubts that there are sectors in Argentina which want to prevent an agreement at all costs. "Despite this," added LA TERCERA DE LA HORA, "our citizenry must remain calm. Our main weapon, in the face of military preparations on the other side of the border, is still the strength of reason."

However, the latest news released by the EL MERCURIO chain stated: "Chile: urgent meeting at the OAS," and went on to disclose remarks of Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos to the effect that an armed conflict might take place.

PROVISIONAL RELEASE REQUESTED FOR CONTRERAS, ESPINOZA

PY231634Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 23 Dec (AFP)--The lawyer defending Chilean officers Gen Manuel Contreras and Col Pedro Espinoza, both indicted in the United States in the Letelier case, asked for their provisional release today.

Sergio Miranda, the lawyer who is counsel to the two officers, made this request to Israel Borquez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice. The request will be reviewed next week.

BOGOTA MAYOR ANNOUNCES 18-PERCENT WAGE INCREASE

PA232117Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota Mayor Hernando Duran Dussan announced here today that the wages of local government employees will be increased by 18 percent effective on 10 January 1979. The mayor said that the financial difficulties presently being faced by the capital government will not permit any greater wage increases.

The mayor said that an agreement has already been reached with one sector of workers and it is hoped that, after dialog with the representatives of the workers in the next few days, an agreement will be reached regarding wage increases which, the mayor says, will not in any way exceed those decreed by the national government for such employees.

LABOR MINISTER TURNS DOWN UNIONS' WAGE REQUEST

PA242112Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota--Labor Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal has turned down a request for a general wage readjustment by leftwing labor unions, the Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Colombia and the General Labor Confederation, explaining that he does not have the legal mechanisms to decree it. In this regard Marin Bernal told this station:

[Begin recording] Not all labor unions have requested a general wage increase. Still, the government's position on this subject is unequivocal: a general wage increase would not only encounter legal difficulties because neither the government nor the national salary council have the power to decree or even recommend it, but it would also affect monetary behavior, lead to inevitable inflationary pressures and, of course, affect employment levels, particularly in those companies that are unable to transfer to the consumer the new costs derived from the wage increase. [end recording]

Possible Increase Next Year

PA230259Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The government has hinted at the possibility of readjusting the minimum wage scale next year. After stating this, Labor Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal said the recently-decreed hike does not mean that the government cannot review minimum wages in 1979.

The labor minister said the minimum wage scale can be reviewed according to changes in the inflation rate. Minister Marin Bernal also said the labor balance [as heard] has unquestionably had a favorable result, noting that the 34-percent wage readjustment will permit the consolidation of social peace.

The inflation rate will not exceed 18 percent by the year's end, Labor Minister Marin Bernal said. He said that this (?projection) was used as the basis for the wage readjustment for urban and rural workers.

Marin Bernal said the wage hike decreed by the government is the best in recent years, and he dismissed the possibility that the hike will unleash an unprecedented inflationary spiral as some critics have stated. He added that wages will be reviewed according to the inflation rate.

MADRID PAPER INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ

PA240045Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Dec 78 p 4 PA

[Text of Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez' interview with Madrid daily INFORMACIONES published on 22 November]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, after 10 years of military rule in Peru, and as a new constitution is being drawn up for the democratic return to civilian rule, the country has a foreign debt of $10 billion, 40 percent of the budget goes to debt servicing, and there is a dramatic economic and social situation. Do you not think that the "bequest" that the military men are leaving to the next constitutional government is too costly? And, following on that, could you draw up a balance of the achievements and failures of the Peruvian revolution prompted by Velasquism?

[Answer] The problem of Peru's foreign debt, which is a little over $8 billion--and not $10 billion, as you say--more or less half of which is the public debt, does not lie mainly in its volume but in the concentration of its payments. According to the timetable in effect, approximately 50 percent of the public debt should be repaid within 2 or 3 years. This heavy concentration in such a short time is what is exerting pressure on our balance of payments, more than the volume of the debt itself.

Precisely to correct this anomalous situation, the restructuring of the debt has been negotiated in Paris so that the payments--which, and I repeat, will be burdensome for the next 2 years--will be spread out over another timetable so that the servicing of the debt can be reasonably proportionate to the amount of exports. The intention of the revolutionary armed forces government--and it is the guiding light in all its actions in this direction--is to lay the groundwork for economic recovery so that the new government will begin its work without worry or pressure.

While it is true that mistakes have come to light in economic guidelines, other external factors entered into play which escaped the Peruvian Government's control. For instance, the dramatic decline in the prices of Peruvian export products involved a cutback of many millions of dollars in the last 3 or 4 years. If there had not been world recession, it is very possible that the internal financial situation would have been controllable since Peru was not too optimistic, although the estimates made regarding the future foreign exchange income were confirmed by international organizations of well-known prestige.

And regarding the "bequest" that you mentioned, I must point out two important aspects of the national economy: The already restructured public foreign debt which I mentioned earlier and the implementation of a series of actions to start the process of economic activity on a solid and coherent basis. The program clearly indicates the specific route that the country's economy will have to follow to correct economic and financial imbalances and reverse trends so that Peruvian society can start the 1980's with renewed possibilities and expectations based on an economy that is in the process of recovering. We hope that the foreign trade sector will display similar behavior.

To balance achievements and failures of the Peruvian revolution would take too long. [paragraph continues]

However, I think it is possible to summarize them in a few concepts which will have a profound impact on the national destiny; for example, the outline of a nationalistic and fully sovereign foreign policy, alien to any tutelage; the incorporation of a majority of the population which before the process was forgotten into the Peruvian mainstream [Peruanidad]; structural reforms such as land, business, financial and educational reform; the defense of natural resources, and so forth, which have significantly modified the national panorama, are permitting the fashioning of a fairer and more humane social system.

I think there should be no talk of failures but of errors, the various aspects of which we have recognized in our own self-criticism.

[Question] If, as the representatives who are drawing up the new Peruvian constitution say, it is finished within the next few months, do you favor calling general elections before the deadline set by the military government as the political parties are asking?

[Answer] I have stated on several occasions that the revolutionary armed forces government is willing to push the timetable for the transfer of power forward if the constituent assembly should finish its work before the expected deadline. Nothing would then impede the calling of general elections.

[Question] It has been said in political and newspaper circles in Lima that you might reach an agreement with APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] to run for president during the next elections. Are you going to continue in Peruvian politics? Do you plan to run in these elections?

[Answer] I repeat that the armed forces government has no commitment to, let alone agreement with, any political group or party and that my presence in the government follows the desire of the armed forces, on whose behalf I serve as president of the republic.

It is possible that I will have some political participation in the future as any other citizen might. I have no specific plans yet, much less to run in the next general elections.

[Question] What is the status of Peru's border dispute with Ecuador and Chile, and what is your country's attitude toward Bolivia's desire for a sea outlet?

[Answer] Your question is very interesting because Peru has no dispute with its neighbors, with all of whom it wants to maintain relations of peace, friendship and integration as the foreign minister and I have recently reiterated.

In view of the sensitive international situation that South America is experiencing, I think it convenient to use your question to reiterate the need for the Latin American countries to concentrate their efforts on unity and integration because, without those elements of international cohesion, we would be opening the way to factors of disunity and conflict which could only harm and delay the accelerated and harmonious development which our nations require.

Intensifying those efforts and overcoming the clashes which have divided our countries in the past, we will work to attain common elements that will permit us to guarantee the permanent peace that will insure our future development.

As far as Bolivia's sea outlet is concerned, Peru's position is marked by its observance of the international juridical instruments in effect and by its intention to see to it, within the framework of those instruments, that a permanent solution based on principles of peace, development and integration is found.

This is the import of Peru's well-known negotiable proposal formulated in November 1976 which my country submitted to the Chilean Government in response to its consultation in line with the 1929 treaty and its complementary protocol.

[Question] What is the current status of relations between Spain and Peru and which do you think the areas of greatest cooperation can be?

[Answer] Our relations with Spain are very good and cordial. The tendency is to expand them, especially in the economic field. I feel that Spain's technological experience can be very useful to Peru.

On the other hand, in this context of fraternity and easy communication due to a common tongue, Peru could also find in Spain the markets that its development needs. Because they are complementary rather than competitive markets, these commercial relations are likely to grow even further. It was precisely within this framework that the "basic convention on scientific and technical cooperation" was signed. The first joint committee meeting was held in Lima from 6 to 8 December with the objective of promoting technical and scientific cooperation, as well as economic, financial and commercial cooperation between our two countries.

[Question] Tying in with the previous question, how is King Don Juan Carlos' coming visit seen in Peru?

[Answer] King Juan Carlos' visit comes at an important time in the life of Peru and Spain. In your case, and with the valuable support of the king, a process of democratic institutionalization has been consolidated which the world views with enthusiasm. In Peru's case, we are advancing more firmly along the route that will lead us to a stable democracy with a genuine social content.

The historic role that Peru has played in ties between Spain and America is well known. Therefore, we are certain that King Juan Carlos' visit will not only permit the consistent projection of bilateral relations into the future but at the same time will help achieve a dynamic harmonization of the interests of the Andean group and Latin America with Spain.

MORALES BERMUDEZ COMMENTS ON WORLD POWER SYSTEMS

PY221408Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] President Morales Bermudez remarked that developed countries will continue to be exposed to negative repercussions, principally in their economies and industries, while there is a lack of a practical harmony between the power systems which currently exist in the world. The wider the gap between these systems or power centers, the more problems there will be throughout the world, especially in the underdeveloped countries. At least for the moment, the world outlook does not inspire [word indistinct] in this respect. He made these remarks during what he called a friendly chat with the third secretaries who recently graduated from the Peruvian political academy.

Morales remarked that they would find that they would have to [words indistinct] abroad in a changing society, such as the Peruvian position, in which there have been deep structural changes. This will be the large framework in which you will have to move. He concluded by wishing the recent graduates every type of success in their tasks.

CUAJONE MINERS DENY SABOTAGE CHARGES

PA220117Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Dec 78 p 8 PA

[Text of letter dated 13 December 1978 sent to the director of EL COMERCIO in Lima by Cuajone labor union officials]

[Text] Lima, 13 December 1978

Director, EL COMERCIO, Lima:

The union we represent addresses you to ask that you insert this explanatory letter in the newspaper you direct.

A news item is carried on page No 1 today which says: Southern Peru Copper Corporation denounces alleged sabotage and work slowdown in the Cuajone copper mine.

It is strange that such alleged actions should be denounced at a time when there is a commission in this city which was created by the Labor Ministry authorities to seek a solution to our list of petitions.

According to reports from our fellow Cuajone mine workers, it is totally false that there has been any sabotage and much less a work slowdown. This is a false and malicious charge by the enterprise aimed at creating difficulties and problems in an effort to obstruct or delay the finding of solutions to our list of demands. It is normal for there to be obstructions in the suction pumps of the separating systems. This happens when rocks, pieces of ore, hoses, rags, pieces of metal and so forth fall in. Every time this happens, repairs or maintenance take from 5 to 8 days. Southern considers that we are obliged to beat production records every day. A strike has been called at present because of the firm's abuses and noncompliance with the law and the lying of labor authorities in Moquegua and Tacna. Returning to work after 5 days of paralyzation and putting the machinery back to work again has possibly lowered production, but this should not be construed as sabotage or a slowdown.

It is necessary to make this explanation because of the alarming news given by the enterprise. Thank you very much for printing our rectification.

Yours truly,

[Signed] Jesus Paredes Zegarra, secretary general

Abdon Torres R., defense secretary

Isidoro Santos Apaza, organization secretary

SOLUTION TO ARGENTINE-CHILEAN CONFLICT SOUGHT

PA221608Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1503 GMT 22 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 22 Dec (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said here today that Venezuela and other Latin American nations are seeking a solution to the border conflict between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Channel.

A few days ago Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi reiterated his concern over the dispute and called on the two countries directly involved to negotiate and to discard the possibility of a conflict.

In his annual message to the Caracas garrisons President Perez said that the possibility of a conflict in the south of the continent over the Beagle Channel is being seen here "with anguish." Perez said that his government and all regional governments must seek not only economic agreements but also political agreements and anything that leads to peace. He stated: "Anything that is of interest to, or that harms any Latin American country, is of interest to, harms, or helps the others."

President Perez said that for this reason "when we see with anguish the possibility of a war between the Republic of Chile and the Argentine Republic over the Beagle Channel, Venezuela does not play a passive role, but acts directly, exchanging views with other Latin American nations to offer our friendly presence if in that way we can contribute to the finding of a peaceful solution to the conflict."

The Venezuelan chief of state added that this is the reason why his country is loudly publicizing its concern at international organizations and is "appealing to sister nations to feel obligated to seek a path of conciliation and understanding."

FIRST GROUP OF FORMER CUBAN PRISONERS ARRIVES

PA250203Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2355 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Dec (AFP)--A group of 94 visibly happy Cubans, former political prisoners and their relatives, arrived here today aboard a Venezuelan Air Force plane that had flown to Cuba on Saturday to bring them here.

This was the first of three groups of Cubans who will come to Venezuela before the end of the year according to agreements reached between the governments of the two countries. Venezuela will receive part of the 3,600 Cuban political prisoners to be released soon by the government of President Fidel Castro, to be brought here on Venezuelan aircraft under the terms of an offer made by Venezuelan chief of state Carlos Andres Perez.

The arrival of the first group of Cubans to Maiquetia Airport took place at 1700 (2100 GMT). They were enthusiastically greeted by local authorities and Cubans who have been living in Venezuela for several years. An office has been installed at the airport to arrange their legal entry into Venezuela where they will establish residence. The group was made up of men and women of all ages, including a newborn baby.

It was announced that the Venezuelan DC-9 plane will return to Cuba on Monday and again on Tuesday to bring the other two groups of former political prisoners and their relatives.

COSTA RICA

RADIO RELOJ REPORTS FIGHTING BETWEEN NATIONAL GUARD, SANDINISTS

PA230124Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Attention, attention. Heavy fighting has been reported at this time in Penas Blancas, but on Nicaraguan territory. The fighting is so bad that the government has ordered immigration officials and Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen to retreat to La Cruz. According to reports received from the Costa Rican customs and immigration post, the fighting has been going on for 30 minutes and is intense. An intense confrontation is underway between the Nicaraguan National Guard and the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Report From Border

PA231916Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA

[23 December telephone interview with Edwin Arce, Costa Rican customs administrator at Penas Blancas--recorded]

[Text] [Arce] According to reports here, the Nicaraguan side has already had some people wounded, specifically in the area near the customs office.

All of the trucks on the Nicaraguan side were sent to Costa Rica, even those bearing Nicaraguan license plates. According to reports from truck drivers there, apparently two trucks were damaged by bullets or bombs, and both those trucks had Costa Rican license plates. At this moment the border is already closed.

[Question] Is shooting still heard at the border area?

[Answer] The shooting continues to be heard, but now it is much closer than when we talked earlier today, because shooting is now taking place in the Nicaraguan customs area, that is, approximately 400 or 500 meters away from our customs post.

[Question] In other words, is fighting taking place almost on the Inter-American Highway?

[Answer] It is now practically on the highway, but on the Nicaraguan side.

[Question] Are many people involved in the fighting? Have you had any reports that the contingents of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the National Guard fighting now are large?

[Answer] We have no reports on that, but based on the number of explosions, the group must be quite large.

[Question] There are already wounded people, but none have come into Costa Rican territory. The wounded, therefore, must be in Nicaraguan territory?

[Answer] In effect, according to reports from persons who have just passed through, there are wounded persons, but they are being taken from the border point--that is, from the Nicaraguan customs post into the country toward Rivas, or Poas, or some other place there, but none have come into Costa Rica.

[Announcer] Thank you. You have heard that the border has been closed. The border is closed. Vehicles from Nicaragua, Costa Rica and other Central American countries that were on the Nicaraguan side have travelled to the Costa Rican side and the situation now is quite critical. At this moment there is heavy fighting at the customs post. There are wounded on the Nicaraguan side, as you have heard. Also, two Costa Rican vans were damaged by bombs thrown by one of the two sides fighting near the Penas Blancas checkpoint.

This is the situation at the Nicaraguan customs post 400 meters from the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border, where heavy fighting is raging between the National Guard and members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Government Collusion Charged

PA231949Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA

[Interview with Gen Gonzalo Evertz, Rivas Department commander, place not given--live]

[Text] I want the Costa Rican people to know that the Costa Rican authorities are not offering any cooperation here on the border with Nicaragua as they have been claiming. In El Valle in Guanacaste Province there was shooting yesterday until National Guard helicopters arrived. Not until they arrived did it stop.

Today there have been bomb explosions and machinegun and weapons fire of all types. There has been no peace on the Costa Rican side. Tourists, workers, trailers coming from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala cannot pass because the Costa Rican authorities are ignoring the reality of what is occuring on the border. They later claim that the Nicaraguan guard is responsible for the events.

I appeal to the Costa Rican people to ask their authorities to end the atrocities which their government is permitting--the commission of crimes--because these are crimes. Yesterday two women were wounded. Other civilians have been wounded today and the authorities are turning a deaf ear. They do not want to know what is happening. Have you heard me?

[Question] Yes, general. The Costa Rican authorities deny that these confrontations are occurring. Has the Nicaraguan Government considered at any time the possibility of presenting this complaint to high-level international organizations?

[Answer] I can tell you something, Radio Reloj announcer. Yesterday, when I was waiting for the Nicaraguan soldiers to be turned over, five members of the Red Cross came to wait for the return of the soldiers, and they were witnesses--I am going to give you their names so that your reporter can interview them in Managua--Mr (Welford Cross), Mr (Royo) Portucarrero, Mr (Tibers) and other members of the International Red Cross with strange surnames that I cannot pronounce--one of them was from Geneva and another from I do not know what country. Those members of the Red Cross yesterday heard the shooting from El Valle in Guanacaste.

[Question] It has been said on several occasions that those confrontations yesterday and those that are apparently occurring today are caused by the National Guard itself in order to produce unrest, a climate of confusion. What can you say about this?

[Answer] Not only do I deny this, but I also accuse the Costa Rican authorities of inventing these lies. I am giving you the names of persons who are completely divorced from political activity, such as the members of the Red Cross who yesterday heard the shooting, who are alive today because of sandbags since the shots were hitting the Penas Blancas command post on the Nicaraguan side.

[Question] Can you give any information about (?shooting) at the customs post on the Nicaraguan side?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] that if the Costa Rican Government authorities are acting honestly, let them go immediately to Penas Blancas to hear what is occurring in Costa Rican territory. Yesterday I told them about it and I pointed out the place where the bandits are.

[Question] We have reports that two Costa Rican vans were partially destroyed by bombs and gunfire near the Nicaraguan customs office. This is the report we have from the Costa Rican customs post. In addition, they say that heavy fighting has been going on for the past hour. Do you know anything about this heavy fighting underway on Nicaraguan territory and precisely at your customs post?

[Answer] The Nicaraguan National Guard has not fired a single shot. Everything is coming from Costa Rica, from El Valle. I told the Costa Rican authorities this yesterday when I met with them, and I pointed out the place where the attackers are. I cite as witnesses the members of the Red Cross, since they heard all the shots and had to take refuge behind sandbags because they were hearing everything that was going on there.

President Denies Charges

PA241748Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1725 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 24 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--President Rodrigo Carazo Odio today denied military reports from Nicaragua that the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) has launched attacks against the Nicaraguan Army from Costa Rican Territory.

Carazo said that all is calm on the Costa Rican side of the border with Nicaragua.

"It is totally untrue that military clashes are occurring on the Costa Rican side. Everything is happening within the territory of the sister nation to the north," the president said. FSLN insurgents have been attacking Nicaraguan troops very close to the border in the last few days.

Yesterday Gen Gonzalo Evertz, commander of the Nicaraguan Department of Rivas, said that the Sandinists have been firing large-caliber machineguns and mortars from Costa Rican territory. Evertz called on the Costa Rican people to urge their government to prevent these guerrilla actions.

In commenting on that statement Carazo said that "the desire exists to implicate Costa Rica in a problem which only involves Nicaragua." For its part the FSLN has so far issued no "war bulletin" on its activities during the past 15 days.

Shooting Stops

PA232100Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2030 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA

[Text] We have kept in touch with the northern border. Customs administrator Edwin Arce reports that the shooting has stopped on the Nicaraguan side. However, the border remains closed. The clash which lasted approximately 8 hours has ended. Fighting along the border lasted from 0800 to 1400. It intensified after 1100.

According to reports, two persons were hurt. Two trucks [furgones] with Costa Rican license plates were also damaged. The situation is calm right now. The shooting near the Nicaraguan customs post has ended. However, the border remains closed according to the report we are receiving from Penas Blancas.

Clashes With FSLN Denied

PA241451Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Presidency Minister Jose Rafael Cordero Croceri has rejected statements by the Nicaraguan Government, which in the last few hours repeatedly broadcast reports over Nicaragua's official radio station that the Sandinists have been engaging in clashes with Costa Rican Civil Guardsmen.

Presidency Minister Cordero Croceri has described these statements as groundless reports officially provided by the Costa Rican government. [as heard] He added: Everything is peaceful and tranquil here.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA REJECTS MEDIATION COMMISSION PROPOSAL

PA221401Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0759 GMT 22 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 22 Dec (LATIN)--President Anastasio Somoza revealed last night that following consultations with the ruling party and various government sectors he has decided to reject the proposal submitted by the inter-American mediation commission to solve the crisis in Nicaragua and avert the possibility of new armed clashes.

The proposal submitted to the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN) and the Broad Oppostion Front (FAO) by the mediation commission, composed of representatives of the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, sets a number of conditions for the holding of a plebiscite to decide whether or not Somoza should stay in power or leave the country.

During a news conference held here with foreign newsmen, Somoza said that the commission's proposals--that an international authority control the elections; that his sons [as received] Maj Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero and Maj Gen Jose R. Somoza, be expatriated and that he leave the presidency until May 1981 if he is defeated in the plebiscite--deviate from the negotiating rules originally proposed.

I have the right to live here. It is one of the human rights, he argued. These proposals, he said, are very humiliating for a party like the Liberal Party, which has done so much good for the country.

Somoza announced that after consultation with the PLN's Executive Committee, the armed forces, the cabinet and the Congress, he decided not to accept the mediation commission's initiative and to make a counterproposal instead.

When questioned about the date on which the counterproposal will be released, the president said that it will be divulged at the proper opportunity.

When reminded that the mediators will return to their respective countries tomorrow, Somoza said: I do not think that they will leave indefinitely because the negotiations are going to continue. We will send them our counterproposal through their respective embassies.

Somoza stressed that his government invited the mediation commission to come to Nicaragua to cooperate in the search for a solution, and that its members announced that they would respect Nicaragua's Constitution, which they have not done if one analyzes the latest proposal they have submitted. In this proposal they have limited themselves to summarizing all of the FAO's proposals. We feel that if we accept this document we would be accepting the collective intervention of the OAS, something we did not propose, because we proposed that the Nicaraguan elections be supervised, Somoza added.

Somoza said that the chief of the U.S. Southern Command, Gen Dennis McAuliffe, visited him yesterday to express the concern of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff over the threats to peace in Nicaragua. I replied that I was also very much concerned and that for this reason I was making efforts to reach an understanding with the opposition, Somoza added.

The Nicaraguan president said that the meeting, which was also attended by U.S. diplomat William Bowdler, who is a member of the mediation commission sent to Nicaragua, took place in an atmosphere of great cordiality, although both sides were frank in the discussions.

Somoza said that neither McAuliffe nor Bowdler threatened to impose any sanctions if he did not accept the proposal of the mediation commission. They have not threatened me. If they did it would no longer be a commission for friendly cooperation, but rather one of the stick, he affirmed.

However, political observers who asked not be identified said that McAuliffe's arrival, which was obviously aimed at pressuring Somoza into accepting the proposal of the mediation commission, is an indication that Somoza has lost not only the confidence of the State Department, but of the Pentagon as well.

Calls for Civic Solution

PA232016Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA

[23 December speech by Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle at the inauguration of the Ministry of the National District printing plant in Managua--live]

[Excerpts] Today a (?virile) nation emerges, willing to confront life, a nation which has also had the courage, faith and spiritual strength needed to overcome each and every one of the vicissitudes we experienced after the Managua earthquake. [shouts of "Hail Somoza"]

After having overcome the earthquake's rude blow, the Nicaraguan people must receive extraordinary recognition because of their courage, strength and patriotism. After such people have overcome a catastrophe of the earthquake's magnitude, no little politicians or rifle-toting youths will be able to destabilize the Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN] politically or financially. [shouts of "Hail Somoza!", other indistinct slogans]

Now, in 1978, the same businessmen that I saved and [words indistinct], the same constructors who became rich in the rebuilding process and the unions which grew stronger because of the demand for labor, have decided that Anastasio Somoza must leave the country. [shouts of "No!" "He is not leaving!" and "Hail Somoza!"]

Abusing public freedoms, they have launched diatribes both on the press and on the radio. Many of my friends asked me: Why do you allow them to say so many barbaric things over the radio? Do you not think that these men will [word indistinct] the Nicaraguan people and turn them againist you?

Gentlemen, to those who said that to me, I used to answer: I am watching the Managua Lake when there is no wind to see which fish jump. [applause] Those fish have already jumped--they are the businessmen and the conservatives who have [words indistinct] in this country. They are the communists, who have sought in the past and still seek to endanger the fundamental freedoms that the PLN has always guaranteed and will continue to guarantee to the Nicaraguan people. [applause, shouts of "Hail Somoza"]

No other Latin American politician or political organization such as the PLN could have withstood the onset of capitalism, communism and of the gratuitous enemy countries that we Nicaraguans have. [sentence as heard] [indistinct shouts] We must feel proud to have eliminated that conspiracy. We must feel proud of the fact that our brothers, the National Guardsmen, have been loyal to the Nicaraguan people. [applause, shouts of "Hail Somoza!" and "(?We shall overcome!)"]

Gentlemen, those countries that opposed us even sought to attack us to see if they could overthrow Somoza and the PLN that way! [indistinct shouts] Gentlemen, if the PLN and the National Guard and the Congress were made up of vengeful men, we would have never approved the amnesty law. That gesture should go very deep into the hearts of both friends and foe. It is the gesture of a president, an army and a party which think about and love the Nicaraguan people! [applause]

We are all Nicaraguans, all of us who have left our navels [ombligo] here in Nicaragua are Nicaraguans. We must think about the country's future and we must also be aware that things should be resolved civically and peacefully rather than by means of imported weapons provided by criminal governments which endanger Nicaragua's peace. [applause]

Let us return to our homes today to share in the peace of Christmas and make plans for 1979. Let us include in those plans the reestablishment of love and peace in Nicaragua, the reestablishment of full confidence. Gentlemen, those who have means, such as the businessmen and the constructors, can live amid unrest because they have money. But the people who do not have many means at their disposal cannot live amid unrest. It is the people who should create tranquillity for the well-being and greatness of our family. [applause, shouts of "Somoza, yes; sombody else, no"] As ruler I am doing everything possible so that there is peace in this country. Now those ruled should cooperate so that an electoral solution will be reached in 1981. Hail the Liberal Party! [applause, shouts of "Hail!"]

OPPOSITION WITHDRAWS FROM TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT

PA221440Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1419 GMT 22 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaragua's Broad Opposition Front (FAO) withdrew today, Friday, from the talks it had been holding with the government in search of a peaceful solution to the country's serious crisis. A mediation commission sent by the OAS had been promoting these negotiations.

FAO leader Alfonso Robelo Callejas told this agency today that the opposition regards the talks as "dead" because "Somozism has only resorted to delaying tactics and tricks." "Before history, the regime will be responsible for the destruction brought about and the blood shed in this country in the future," Robelo added.

The FAO had accepted a "final proposal" presented by mediators from the United States, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic calling for a plebiscite to decide on General Somoza's remaining in the presidency and to form a national unity government later. President Somoza and his Nationalist Liberal Party have rejected the proposal, stating that it "violates the precepts of the national constitution and injures the national sovereignty." The mediators left today for their respective countries, where they will hold consultations. They are scheduled to return after Christmas.

RULING PARTY ANSWERS MEDIATORS' PROPOSAL

PA222016Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Dec 78 PA

[Text of statement signed by Julio C. Quintana (?V.), Orlando Montenegro Medrano and (Alcedo Tablada) Solis of the National and Legal Board of the Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN] in Managua on 21 December 1978--read by announcer]

[Text] Your excellencies Vice Adm Ramon Emilio Jimenez, foreign relations secretary of the Dominican Republic; William G. Bowdler and engineer Alfredo Obiols Gomez, members of the OAS commission for friendly cooperation.

In our capacity as representatives of the Nationalist Liberal Party's National and Legal Board we acknowledge receipt of your communique issued yesterday at 2100 which we personally received with the draft of a memorandum of commitment prepared by representatives Vice Adm Ramon Emilio Jimenez, Dominican foreign affairs minister. Ambassador William G. Bowdler for the United States; and Alfredo Obiols Gomez for Guatemala. These documents were read and personally delivered to us during the last session held at the U.S. Embassy with the Political Commission of the Broad Opposition Front [FAO], which was adjourned by commission president Foreign Minister Jimenez with unceremonious haste, not allowing a review or discussion of any kind of the important matters that were raised.

We feel that it is appropriate to observe that the rules agreed upon for the development of the current talks were not followed. Point four was ignored. It reads: If that conciliation formula is not accepted, the point under discussion will be postponed for further analysis subject to meditation and consultation and the talks will continue with the following point on the agenda. It should be noted regarding this topic that the provisions set forth in your 8 December statement were also ignored. You suggested the adoption of an agenda which was not observed during subsequent sessions. The aforementioned memorandum of commitment contains matters of such significance that we are forced to think about it in order to carefully evaluate these matters with our party's authorities. Consequently, we cannot respond to your request within the peremptory 24-hour deadline which you suggested to us yesterday upon suddenly adjourning the session.

On the other hand, we feel that it is our duty as citizens to register the fact that, in our opinion, some of the points that you described as commitments violate precepts of our constitution. The proposed application of these points would threaten the integrity of state branches and would harm national sovereignty. Nevertheless, with the unshakable intention of continuing to contribute to the search for peaceful and just solutions to the political crisis experienced by Nicaragua, we have received precise instructions to submit a counterproposal in accordance with the telephone conversation held this afternoon in which Foreign Minister Jimenez indicated that it should be submitted through your respective ambassadors accredited before our government, bearing in mind your determination to leave tomorrow for your countries or official seats.

In this respect it is worth noting that we agreed to the holding of a plebiscite or popular consultation and, naturally, to the results of the plebiscite, whether or not the result of such an electoral battle was favorable or adverse to us. This was roundly rejected by the FAO and we proposed the holding of a national constituent assembly. We adopted the patriotic attitude of rejecting measures such as the elimination of the registration system, which would permit making a subsequent comparison of the election's results; the inclusion in the election of Nicaraguans not living in the country, which is alien to our electoral tradition and which has never been the subject of a controversy or proposal of any kind; the personalization [personalizacion] in your plan for a reorganization of the National Guard and the imposition of estrangement of certain citizens.

We also object to the control and organization of an electoral system by international authority in lieu of supervision; the change in the state's organic structure and amendment of the constitution as a result of the plebiscite when other points have been submitted to such a verdict; the elimination of the right of every political group to select its electoral symbols; the discretionary power to organize cantons and polling places without any criteria or objectives as well as other functions the honorable commission has sought to usurp [arrogarse], such as, for example, the dismissal of Supreme Court justices, the dissolution of the National Congress and other functions which would involve a serious hampering of functions which can only be exercised by organs of the republic's constitutional government.

Despite such fundamental observations, we express our determination to remain open to mediation and to all negotiations contributing to the restoration of public tranquillity and national peace. We reiterate to you the testimony of our highest consideration and esteem. Very truly yours, [signed] Julio C. Quintana (V.), Orlando Montenegro Medrano, (Alcedo Tablada) Solis

MEDIATION COMMISSION MEMBERS LEAVE COUNTRY

PA221703Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1636 GMT 22 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The international mediation commission sent by the OAS to Nicaragua today, Friday, considered its assignment concluded without having secured a peaceful solution to the crisis in this Central American country. The representatives of Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, Alfredo Obiols and Foreign Minister Vice Adm Ramon Emilio Jimenez respectively, have already left Managua. In leaving, the two stated that they would not return to Nicaragua unless something very extraordinary happens or a new special appeal is made for them to return.

It has been announced that the U.S. negotiator, William Bowdler, will leave tomorrow, Saturday.

Diplomatic circles have said that the mission failed "because of a lack of cooperation from the official sector, which did not accept the various proposals made by the mediation commission in the search for a solution." The governing Nationalist Liberal Party promised the mediators that it would issue a counterproposal, but they decided this was "inappropriate" since the mediators had issued the "final" proposal.

SPORADIC VIOLENCE REPORTED ON BORDER, IN COUNTRY'S INTERIOR

PA242108Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2015 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[By Agustin Fuentes]

[Text] Managua, 24 Dec (LATIN)--Nicaragua began Christmas today marked by uncertainty under a latent state of insurrection, threats by the Sandinist Front along the southern border, and attacks on headquarters and military patrols in the country's interior. Meanwhile, the possibilities that international mediation will contribute to a peaceful solution seemed scant.

The border with Costa Rica remained closed all day yesterday because the Penas Blancas customs office on the Nicaraguan side came under sporadic attacks from guerrillas who fired machineguns, mortars and sniper rifles from Costa Rican territory.

This morning a telecommunications and postal service official announced from Penas Blancas: "The National Guard responded to the attack by shooting at the place from where the shots were coming. This situation was maintained throughout the whole day and did not cease until late in the afternoon.

"The situation is calm this morning, and the authorities are preparing to open the border in order to let through the hundreds of cars, trucks and vans waiting on both sides. There is no certainty that the attacks from the Costa Rican side will not be resumed, however, because the Costa Rican Civil Guard apparently cannot or does not want to control the attackers."

Meanwhile, several National Guard posts have been attacked in the past 24 hours, leaving several dead. In Santa Teresa, Carazo Department, groups of youths armed with guns and rifles attacked the local police quarters with nine guards inside. Shortly after, however, several truckloads of guardsmen arrived from Jinotepe, only 5 km away, and engaged the attackers, killing three and wounding several others. Several guardsmen inside the building were wounded when they were caught by surprise by the assailants in an attack which National Guard officers considered suicidal in view of the proximity of heavy military concentrations.

In Chinandega Department, between the capital and the Honduran border, a large number of bodies have been found in the last few weeks, some in open fields and partly dismembered by birds of prey. Others were partly buried. Local reporters believe they are victims of the September National Guard counterattack following the recapture of the city of Chinandega.

Guerrilla groups had fled in disorder toward Honduras. Some reached the border while others were spotted by planes or intercepted by land patrols. The same sources added that several groups which tried to return to Honduras were ambushed by patrols once they had crossed the border.

The policy of the military elements controlling the area, they added, is to withold information. They merely bury the dead without going to the trouble of identifying them.

Cities such as Chinandega and Esteli, which were bombed and razed during the September clashes, are practically deserted, as their inhabitants have gone to spend Christmas in farms or small nearby towns.

Foreign Minister Julio Quintana, one of the Nationalist Liberal Party negotiators, has announced that talks with the opposition through the mediating committee will continue "after the vacation."

Broad Opposition Front [FAO] representatives, however, have declared that they will not discuss any proposal other than the last one submitted by the mediating committee, which calls for a popular referendum supervised and controlled by an international authority and the departure from the country of the members of the Somoza family who occupy military positions.

CONGRESS APPROVES 1979 NATIONAL BUDGET

PA240322Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1530 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Congress yesterday afternoon completed parliamentary procedures to approve the 1979 national budget. The new budget toals 3.76 billion cordobas ($537.1 million). The approved budget exceeds the previous year's by 200 million cordobas ($28.5 million).

FIDEL CASTRO CHAIRS PCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

FL231410Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The seventh PCC Central Committee Plenary session was held yesterday chaired by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The participants in the plenum examined the draft of the economic plan and national budget for 1979, which will be taken up in the next meeting of the People's Government National Assembly.

Among matters dealing with the party's internal affairs, the organization's degree of growth and the measures adopted by the Politburo to improve the social composition of its membership were examined. Fidel congratulated the party's provincial and municipal committees and their respective first secretaries for their accomplishments aimed at increasing the membership and improving the labor composition of party ranks. As a result of that effort, the number of workers directly tied to production who have joined party ranks this year has increased substantially.

The PCC Central Committee plenum also approved the party's budget for 1979 and heard a report on the draft agenda of the next meeting of the People's Government National Assembly. Similarly, the plenum agreed to ratify the Politburo decision releasing Comrade Raul Garcia Pelaez, member of the PCC Central Committee, from his obligations as member of the Secretariat due to having been designated Cuban ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan.

The closing remarks of the seventh PCC Central Committee plenary session were made by its first secretary, Comrade Fidel Castro, who extensively defined the tasks to be undertaken by the party and state next year and explained the revolution's foreign policy. The The plenum approved Fidel's remarks and agreed to congratulate him for the brilliant analysis of the tasks he outlined and, very especially, for maintaining the principles in the magnificent preparation and direction of the country's foreign policy.

SPECIAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION SCHEDULED

FL251304Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The Council of State has decided that an extraordinary and solemn session of the People's Government National Assembly will be held in the afternoon hours of 1 January on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution. The session will be held at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana.

STATE COMMITTEE TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHED

FL230019Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The Technical Advisory Board of the State Committee for Science and Technology was established this afternoon in Havana in an event chaired by Council of Ministers Vice President Jose R. Fernandez and the committee's president, Zoilo Marinello, both members of the PCC Central Committee. The new agency is an advisory organ which studies and prepares recommendations, and the study and discussion of the main scientific and technical problems of the 5-year period are among its primary tasks as well as the evaluation of fundamental plans of that speciality. The board is composed of more than 30 outstanding specialists, highly qualified technicians and leaders and representatives of the State Committee for Science and Technology.

RELEASED PRISONERS, RELATIVES LEAVE FOR VENEZUELA

PA242000Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 78 PA

[Text] A group of former Cuban prisoners, who had been convicted of crimes against state security, left for Caracas along with their relatives aboard a Venezuelan Air Force plane which arrived in Havana to pick them up early this morning.

In statements to Radio Havana, Reverend Jose Reyes, president of the commission of representatives of the Cuban community abroad, said that this step is the result of talks held with the Cuban Government, headed by Fidel Castro. Reyes said that the release of persons imprisoned for counterrevolutionary crimes is a matter of interest to Cubans and recalled the statements made by Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, to the effect that this issue should be discussed by Cubans at home and abroad.

Reyes later emphasized that these results constitute a crushing blow to the very small minority of emigrants who have still been unable to understand the historic process being experienced by the Cuban people and who are opposed to dialog.

Reyes later noted that since the dialog was initiated, the Venezuelan Government has expressed willingness to provide air transportation for the former counterrevolutionary prisoners and their families.

Flights To Continue

PA260255Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Dec 78 PA

[Text] This Tuesday [as heard] afternoon a Venezuelan Air Force plane left for caracas with 76 passengers aboard. The flight included 30 former prisoners who had served terms for carrying out crimes against the security of the state, as well as their relatives.

Several members of the Committee of 75--created at the end of the first round of talks between representatives of the Cuban community abroad and the Cuban Government--and Ramon Delgado, the Venezuelan ambassador to our country, bade farewell to them at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana.

Twenty-three former prisoners and 48 relatives left for Caracas yesterday on the same Venezuelan Air Force DC-9. (?Jose Joaquin) Fernandez and Jorge Roblejo Lorie, members of the Committee of 75, expressed their satisfaction over the decision made by the Cuban Government to permit these releases, which were agreed during the dialog held in Havana with representatives of the Cuban community abroad. They also expressed satisfaction over the positive cooperation of the Venezuelan Government in making these flights possible.

According to a statement by Venezuelan Ambassador Ramon Delgado to Radio Havana, the flights with former prisoners and their relatives will continue.

RODRIGUEZ CONTINUES CONTACTS IN LISBON

FL221249Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Dec 78 FL

[Text] In Lisbon, Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Cuban vice president of the Council of State, have examined ways to intensify cooperation between the two countries.

International problems were studied at the meeting held at the Portuguese chief executive's residence. The two leaders explained the general foreign policy lines of their respective countries. They also discussed possible cooperation in areas of world politics, such as detente, peace and the new international economic order. At the meeting Carlos Rafael Rodriguez also explained the Cuban policy with regards to the southern cone of Africa. Afterwards the Cuban leader toured the area of Sintra, where he was given a luncheon by the Portuguese Council of the Revolution. The Cuban vice president of the Council of State has received Portuguese Prime Minister Carlos Alberto da Mota Pinto and Paulo Ennes, secretary of state for foreing affairs, at the residence where he is staying.

Ends Portugal Visit

FL231547Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Council of State Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez yesterday was received in solemn session by Portugal's Council of the Revolution on the third and last day of his visit to that European country. The Council of the Revolution, one of the five organs of sovereignty of the Portuguese State, is headed by President of the Republic Gen Antonio Ramalho Eanes and is comprised of military representatives from the three branches of the armed forces.

As a climax to his visit to Portugal, the vice president of the Cuban Council of State gave a news conference, during which he responded to questions posed by newsmen on Africa, nonalined countries, Cuba's relations with the Cuban community abroad and his stay in Portugal.

The Cuban leader also met with officials of the Cuban Embassy in Portugal and paid tribute to two former officials of the mission, Adriana Corcho Callejas and Efrain Monteagudo, who were killed in Lisbon during a terrorist explosion perpetrated at the embassy in 1976.

FMC CONCLUDES 3-DAY NATIONAL PLENUM

Final Declaration

FL212306Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2202 GMT 21 Dec 78 FL

[Text] In its third and final day of sessions of the national plenum of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and FMC president, read the event's final declaration. The document points out that in their evaluation the 270 participants from national, provincial and municipal organs have termed very positive the organization's accomplishments. It equally notes that the FMC is marking the glorious 20th anniversary of the revolution by working arduously and with great determination in the fulfillment of each and every one of its objectives.

Vilma Espin referred to the fruitful results attained in raising the cultural level of women, mainly in the battle for a sixth-grade education, in support of schools and in family education plans. She noted the progress made in ideological work, in women's participation in the country's active work forces and the magnificent attitude of peasant women in the adoption of superior forms of production. Similarly, she pointed out the FMC progress in support of mother-child plans and the FMC members' mobilization to different productive tasks, among them the sugar, coffee and tobacco harvests.

The FMC president stated that the plenum's participants recognized the importance and extraordinary value of international work of FMC members.

This has consisted of cooperation with different organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, not leaving unmentioned the work carried out nationally in solidarity with the people struggling for a better life.

In reading the final declaration of the 13th FMC National Plenum, which held working sessions over the past 3 days at the Fe del Valle national cadre school in Havana City, Vilma Espin said that the FMC members' efforts to fulfill all tasks in connection with the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival was very positive. The plenum also granted special importance to the work that must be undertaken next year to prepare for the Third FMC Congress. The gains we are able to attain in that task, the FMC president said, will be the best tribute the FMC members can pay to the 20th anniversary of our revolution. In this manner the Cuban women, to whom socialism has offered all possibilities of fully developing into a decisive force in building our future, will be able to make a contribution to the commemoration of this event, Vilma Espin said in closing.

Letter to Fidel

FL221228Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A warm letter was sent to our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, by the participants of the recently concluded 13th National Plenum of the Federation of Cuban Women--FMC. The letter, in one of its parts, states: Twenty years of victories, of fruitful efforts, of struggling against a powerful enemy without giving any quarter; 20 years of creating, of causing a new world to flower; 20 years of socialist building--this is the work done by the people, this is your great work.

The letter sent to Fidel adds: With you we have lived the beautiful years of our revolution, the most difficult years but also the dearest years, clearing the way for the future. The letter adds: Along with you we will continue going forward with the same firmness, passion and revolutionary awareness.

The FMC letter points out that today the revolution has been consolidated. It has a Marxist-Leninist party; a scientific ideology; a powerful armed forces and a people which is profoundly revolutionary, internationalist, consistent and enthusiastic.

Later on, the letter expresses the Cuban women's salute to all those who fell on the path toward victory, here or in other lands; and to those who today fulfill internationalist missions, to the anonymous heroes who serve the country and socialism anywhere in the world.

Lastly the letter sent to Fidel reiterates the FMC members' decision to continue being steadfast builders of the marvelous future which is being built by our people.

SUGAR INDUSTRY MINISTER ADDRESSES SEMINAR

FL220054Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Sugar Industry Minister Marcos Lage this afternoon made the closing remarks at the first national seminar of the Sugar Industry Ministry's Projects Institute [IPROIA], which held working sessions over the past 4 days at the sugar industry national training institute, located next to the Manuel Martinez Prieto sugar mill-refinery in Havana City. Our correspondent Mario Gonzalez has filed the following report.

[Begin recording] The sugar industry minister said that the IPROIA technical meeting marks the conclusion of a period of work during which the sugar industry has concentrated special efforts on the creation of a projects institute capable of satisfying the development needs of this decisive economic branch. He said that two new sugar mills should be built every year while at the same time building new installations for sugarcane byproducts.

Marcos Lage pointed out the three directions to be followed by the projects institute starting now, which are to focus attention on the industry's energy problems, both at new mills and in rebuilding old ones; to facilitate rebuilding efforts; and to work on plans for installations needed to exploit sugarcane byproducts. In his closing remarks at the first IPROIA seminar, the sugar industry noted that technical institution's efforts in building projects of new and modern bulk sugar terminals as well as of new sugar mills presently under construction, which are the first installations of this type to be planned by Cuban specialists.

The first IPROIA national seminar, in which more than 100 engineers, draftsmen, architects, economists and guests from other organizations participated, examined nine technical projects dealing with the functions which that institution should develop in the immediate future. [end recording]

EDUCATORS' NATIONAL EVENT HELD IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL201239Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Dec 78 FL

[Rosa Maria Hurtado telephone report]

[Text] The main event of the national week commemorating educators was held at the Oriente Theater in Santiago de Cuba and was presided over by members of the PCC Central Committee Jose Ramon Fernandez, Fernando Vecino Alegret, Asela de los Santos and Jose Ramon Balaguer. The opening remarks were made by Julio Reyes, secretary general of the education and science trade union. Following this, diplomas and awards were handed out to teachers with more than 25 years' service. Prizes were also presented to winners of the Frank Pais literary contest. There was a moment of true emotion when those in the theater heard the "Guerrillero Heroico" march being played by the Pioneer band as the student organizations made a symbolic assault at this main event.

The closing remarks were made by Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), who stated that all the people pay homage to the teachers, and this means that the teacher's dignity had been raised and that people have become aware of the importance of being a teacher. Later on he recalled the personalities of Varela, Marti, Mendive, Frank Pais, Pepito Tey and Juan Marinello and how their examples are the life-giving flame of the new teachers who have been forged into a new thought, where men are brothers, and where the new morality is to teach wherever necessary by practicing proletarian internationalism. Lastly, he reiterated the recognition and warmth felt by the country's workers for their brother teachers and he congratulated them and wished them great success in their future tasks.

HART, VEIGA ATTEND UNION MEETING ON ISLE OF YOUTH

FL211344Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of culture, and Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, have attended the closing ceremony of the national 2-day meeting held by the culture workers trade union on the Isle of Youth.

Jacinto Viamontes, secretary general of the culture workers trade union, referred to the work done by the trade union this year and the basic guidelines for 1979.

SOVIET TRADE OFFICIAL VISITS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL221126Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Fridrich Fesenko, USSR deputy minister of trade, has arrived in the city of Santiago de Cuba at the head of a delegation. The delegation traveled to the cradle of the Cuban revolution [Santiago] accompanied by Rodrigo Rodriguez, vice minister for the economy in the Domestic Trade Ministry. During their stay in Santiago de Cuba the visitors will tour the 26 July museum, the former Moncada barracks, the Siboney farm, the Segundo Frente municipality and other sites of historical interest.

IRAQI LABOR DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL221138Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A delegation of Iraqi trade unionists was received at Jose Marti International Airport by Jesus Escandel, member of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--Executive Secretariat, and Angel Garcia, member of the CTC International Relations Department. The delegation which is headed by (Abdul) Hadi Nasif, international relations secretary of the Iraqi Trade Unions Federation, will participate in the festivities commemorating the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution.

Received by Roberto Veiga

FL231519Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], has received the Iraqi trade union delegation headed by (Abdu) Hadi Nasif. During the meeting Veiga briefed the vistors on the results of the 14th CTC Congress and on trade union work guidelines for coming years aimed at solving essential economic problems.

VIETNAMESE VICE PREMIER HEADS VISITING DELEGATION

FL221951Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The high-level Vietnamese delegation headed by Do Muoi, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Politburo [as heard], has participated in numerous activities since it arrived in our country several days ago. This morning the member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Politburo, who is also vice premier of that fraternal country's government, visited the Construction Ministry in Havana City. The high Vietnamese official and the delegation accompanying him were received by Construction Minister Jose A. Lopez Moreno and members of the ministry's management council. Do Muoi and his delegation are participating in the third intergovernmental meeting for economic, scientific and technical cooperation in 1979 between the Republic of Cuba and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

KURT WALDHEIM TO VISIT 7-9 JANUARY

FL231420Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Dec 78 FL

[Text] UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim will visit our country next January. A UN spokesman announced that Waldheim will go on a tour of Mexico, Jamaica and Cuba next month at the invitation of the respective governments. Subsequently, he will return to New York City to officially open the international year of the child, as proclaimed by the United Nations. At the end of January, he will again go on a tour of Asian countries which will include the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Kampuchea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

The UN secretary general's visit to our country will take place from 7 to 9 January next year.

CANADIAN ATHLETES WILL VISIT NEXT YEAR

FL201132Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Dec 78 FL

[Text] One hundred Canadian athletes specializing in seven disciplines will travel to Cuba next year within the yearly program of sports exchange called for in an agreement signed in Ottawa between the two countries. The agreement was signed by Jorge Garcia-Bango, president of the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER), and Iona Campagnolo, Canadian minister of state for fitness and sports. The annual program, which has been in force in Cuba and Canada since 1976, also calls for exchange of female athletes.

COMMENTATOR NOTES U.S. PRESSURE ON SOMOZA

FL251350Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1341 GMT 25 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The United States has begun to impose military pressures on Nicaragua to force the Anastasio Somoza regime to accept capitulation without endangering U.S. interests in the Central American region. This is stressed by various articles in Costa Rican newspapers.

Gen Dennis McAuliffe, commander of the Southern Command, went to Managua, the capital, to meet with Somoza, along with Special Ambassador William Bowdler, who is negotiating the dictator's resignation. Through him [McAuliffe], the U.S. Government expressed its concern over the obstacles to negotiations and the position of Somoza's negotiators, according to a statement of the U.S. Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua.

The weekly LIBERTAD, organ of the Costa Rican Communist Party, commented on the significance of U.S. maneuvers in Nicaragua to maintain the "Somozato" system in effect, describing the latter as being combined with the National Guard.

BRIEFS

SUGAR HARVEST NEWS--The daily report issued by the Sugar Harvest Evaluation and Analysis Department of the Sugar Industry Ministry has announced that at the close of the 24-hour period ending on 21 December at 1100 hours, the country's 126 active sugar mills recorded 90 percent fulfillment of the potential grinding norm. The specialists termed the results satisfactory. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 78 FL]

PRIME MINISTER MANLEY BOOED AT TENNIS TOURNAMENT

FL221520Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Dec 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Michael Manley was booed on Sunday at the world championship tennis presentations at the Rose Hall International Hotel in Montego Bay.

When the chairman invited the prime minister to hand over the first prize cheque to champion Illie Nastase, Mr. Manley got up to do so. Some spectators applauded. Then one spectator was heard by some to shout: "What are you doing with your hand on an American cheque?" And that started it.

A section of the crowd began booing, and continued through Mr. Manley's presentation. The prime minister said not a word over the microphone, and went back to his seat with his face firmly set.

Some spectators thought at first that it was Nastase being booed, but it turned out that when Nastase spoke, he was loudly cheered.

According to the STAR report the U.S. television media will edit out the booing and replace it by canned applause.

WORLD BANK TEAM PRAISES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

FL191440Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Dec 78 p 27 FL

[Text] Favourable opinion on Jamaica's economic development has been expressed by a World Bank review team, which has been visiting the island during the last three weeks, said Finance Minister Eric Bell. The team is here assessing the island's economy, preparatory to making a second programme loan this year for about $30 million.

Mr Bell told members of the press yesterday at a briefing on the five-year development plan in his ministry: "They tell me that they have been here over the last two years and now there is a feeling of growth both in the public and private sectors. "In the area of confidence, they feel that the view is more positive now and that we should produce the targets that we set out to achieve in the areas which we have examined. They feel that in some of these areas, we have produced satisfactorily, and over on the private sector side, there is the inclination to produce".

Mr. Bell said the first programme loan to this island by the World Bank was for $30 million and the second one "is likely to be no less".

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GRANTS LOAN

FL221455Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Eric Bell yesterday signed a loan agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank [CDB], under which (US)$12 million will be made available to help finance several development projects being undertaken by the government.

The loan, which is repayable over a 20 year period, attracting an annual interest of 4 per cent and with a grace period of ten years, was hailed by Mr. Bell as valuable to Jamaica at this time in view of the island's serious foreign exchange situation.

The money was provided by the United States Government and channelled to the Caribbean Development Bank through a special Caribbean development facility established recently and under which certain donor countries have agreed to make funds available to the CDB for on-lending to the various Caribbean territories.

Projects to benefit from the loan include: The first rural development programme, self-supporting farmers' development programme, students' loan programme, education loan programme, population projects, SEDCO projects, sites and services and secondary, main and parish council roads improvement. These projects have already attracted foreign exchange financing from international lending agencies such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, Mr. Bell said.

The other signatory to the loan agreement was CDB President William Demas, who flew in yesterday.

$1.75 MILLION COMMODITY LOAN GRANTED BY PRC

FL201535Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Dec 78 p 1 FL

[Text] A commodity loan of US$1.75 million for the purchase of cotton griege, rice and small agricultural tools has been made available to Jamaica by the People's Republic of China in the first major project assistance by that country to this island, arising out of the visit earlier this year of Chinese Vice-Premier Keng Piao.

The loan agreement was signed by Jamaica's minister of industry and commerce, the Hon. Danny Williams, and the Chinese ambassador, Mr. Wang Chung-li, at the ministry, on Wednesday this week.

With the loan, which is being made available interest-free, for the purchase of "essential goods", Jamaica will buy from China cotton griege (a raw material for making cotton yarn), rice and small farm tools such as machetes,forks, shovels, files and hoes. These items are among a number of which the island stands urgently in need, in carrying out its manufacturing and agricultural development programme.

Minister Williams said, at the signing ceremony, that already the state trading corporation was in contact with a number of Chinese suppliers about the availability and prices of the commodities to be purchased.

According to a ministry statement, the offer of loan assistance to Jamaica was first made by Chinese Vice-Premier Keng Piao, on behalf of the Chinese Government, during his official visit earlier this year.

OPEC GRANTS LOAN FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

FL221450Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] Vienna, Dec. 19 (REUTER-CANA) --Jamaica is among seven developing countries to receive a total of US$37.55 million in loans for development projects and balance of payments support from an Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fund, it has been announced here.

The special OPEC fund has awarded Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Tanzania, and the Philippines US$21.1 million dollars for industrial projects.